

About Assemblymember Koretz

PAUL KORETZ: A LEADER FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) was elected to represent the 42nd Assembly District in November of 2000. Mr. Koretz began his political career when he worked to incorporate the City of West Hollywood in 1984 and served as Mayor and City Councilman for 12 years before his election to the California State Assembly. Paul Koretz has been a long time champion of core progressive issues such as strengthening labor, improving public health, reducing gun violence and vigorously fighting for human rights, particularly for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Mr. Koretz has also established himself as a leader in developing environmental protection and animal welfare legislation.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment, Paul Koretz has dedicated himself to strengthening California's enforcement of labor laws. Under his watch, the Labor Committee has held various oversight hearings exposing deficiencies in state enforcement and collection of wages, especially for the most vulnerable workers in our state. His goal is to establish meaningful reforms in enforcement for low-wage workers.

Koretz has also introduced several bills to enhance enforcement of labor laws. His AB 276 increases penalties for violations of the Labor Code and earmarks a portion of the increase to employer education about their requirements under the labor laws. AB 1133 establishes a penalty for employers that fail to pay wage and hour judgments lawfully rendered against them.

In 2002, Assemblyman Koretz authored AB 2957 to require employers to provide effective lay-off notification to workers at risk of losing their jobs. This bill, now state law, allows workers in our economic climate to make adjustments, explore retraining opportunities, and seek new employment.

This year, Paul Koretz also stopped a host of bills to roll back decades of hard-fought gains for the working men and women of the state. Among the laws targeted were those ensuring overtime pay after eight hours of work and those establishing justice for farm workers. These anti-worker bills were defeated by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee.

A life long Democrat, Paul Koretz lives in West Hollywood with his wife Gail, daughter Rachel and their two cats Chagall and Samantha. He loves baseball, science fiction, spending time with his family and enjoying LA's rich diverse cultural life.